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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 123029

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

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S/S-RELTZ
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

S E C R E T STATE 123029

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AF, LY
SUBJECT:BACKGROUND INFO ON LIBYA

REF: KABUL 3526, 3174

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING IN DISCUSSING LIBYAN SITUATION WITH NAIM. WE WOULD PREFER THAT YOU CONFINE THIS TO ORAL PRESENTATION.

2. COLONEL QADHAFI APPEARS TO RETAIN ULTIMATE AUTHORITY IN LIBYA, DESPITE RUMORS THAT PRIME MINISTER JALLUD HAS TAKEN OVER. QADHAFI IS TRYING TO ASSUME ROLE OF NASSER'S POLITICAL HEIR BUT HAS NOT ATTRACTED WIDESPREAD SUPPORT IN ARAB WORLD. LIBYA'S UNPREDICTABLE AND ERRATIC FOREIGN POLICY DURING PAST YEAR, INCLUDING ITS ATTEMPTS TO UNITE WITH EGYPT AND TUNISIA, HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND HAS LEFT LIBYA ISOLATED AND IN DISPUTE WITH ALL ITS NEIGHBORS. ON OTHER HAND, LIBYA'S RELATIONS WITH FRANCE APPEAR FAIRLY GOOD AND WE ARE AWARE OF INCREASING TIES BETWEEN LIBYA
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AND PAKISTAN FOLLOWING QADHAFI'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN AFTER

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LAHORE SUMMIT. JALLUD'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW WAS ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE PREVIOUSLY CHILLY RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBYA AND USSR AND PERHAPS AN ATTEMPT BY LIBYA TO FIND A NEW FRIEND.

3. WE REGRET LIBYA'S NEGATIVE AND OBSTRUCTIONIST ACTIVITIES TOWARD EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND WE ARE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY REPORTS THAT COLONEL QADHAFI'S GOVERNMENT IS SUPPORTING TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

4. FOR ADDED BACKGROUND ON JALLUD VISIT MOSCOW, SEE CFR NO. 22 OF MAY 29. SISCO

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